WACs 220-415-050 and 220-415-060

Elk General Seasons and Elk Special Permits

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Elk Herds
Elk General Seasons

- Removed GMU 655 (Anderson Island) from the list of GMUs open during modern firearm general elk seasons in western Washington.

- Proposed no changes in the North Cascades, South Rainier, Olympic, Willapa Hills, Selkirk, and Blue Mountains elk herd areas.

- Proposed minor adjustments in the North Rainier and Mount St. Helens elk herd areas.
  - Both were associated with mitigating elk damage.

- Postponed recommendations for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds until survey and harvest data were available.
Elk Special Permits

• Recommended a reduction in permits for bulls and antlerless elk in the Blue Mountains

• Recommended a reduction in permits for antlerless elk in Mount St. Helens

• Postponed the development of final recommendations for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds
Elk Special Permits

• Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one elk, even if permits are drawn in more than one category

• No recommended adjustments were proposed in the South Rainier and Selkirk elk herd areas

• Minor adjustments were proposed in the North Cascades, North Rainier, Olympic, and Willapa Hills elk herd areas
Colockum Elk Herd

Population Estimate

2020 = 3,700

~18% Below Objective

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
Colockum Elk Herd

Population Projection

- No Cow Harvest
- 100 Cows
- 300 Cows

2018-2019 Colockum Antlerless Elk Harvest
n = 654, AVG = 327

- Early Archery: 29%
- Late Archery: 4%
- Modern Firearm: 30%
- Muzzleloader: 9%
- Damage: 27%

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
• Recommend eliminating opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during early and late general archery seasons in GMUs 328 and 329 (core area)

• Opportunities in GMUs 249, 334, and 335 were retained

• Offset some of the opportunity lost with special permits
Special Permits

- Set permit numbers with a harvest target of 100 antlerless elk, including elk harvested in damage situations
- Reduced the number of antlerless permits for modern firearm and muzzleloader hunters
- Eliminate opportunities for Youth, Senior (65+), and Hunters w/ Disabilities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Special Permits</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weapon/Group</td>
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<td>Modern Firearm</td>
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<td>Muzzleloader</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>Youth</td>
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<td>Archery Early</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archery Late</td>
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</table>
Yakima Elk Herd

Population Estimate

- 2020 = No Estimate
- ~14% Below Objective

Calf:Cow Ratios

- 2020 = 19:100

Information is subject to changes and amendments over time.
Yakima Elk Herd

Population Projection

- No Cow Harvest
- 100 Cows
- 300 Cows

2018-2019 Yakima Antlerless Elk Harvest
n = 550

- Early Archery: 28%
- Late Archery: 26%
- Modern Firearm Archery: 22%
- Muzzleloader: 9%
- Damage: 16%
• Recommend eliminating opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during all early and late general archery seasons

• Offset some of the lost opportunity with special permits

• Set permit numbers with a harvest target of 150 antlerless elk, including elk harvested in damage situations
Public Comment

• Comments indicated general support and understanding for reducing antlerless harvest, but consensus on how opportunity should be reduced was lacking

• Other themes included predator management and reducing tribal harvest
Additional Public Comment

• Public Testimony
  – No comments in support
  – Received 1 comment in opposition to the proposal because they were opposed to the elimination of opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during general archery seasons

• Extended Comment Period
  – 1 comment expressed general support
  – 1 comment supported youth permits in GMU 371
  – 1 comment in opposition (same person that testified)
  – 1 comment in opposition to changes in Master Hunter season length in GMU 371
  – 1 comment advocated for separate Master Hunter seasons for each weapon type in GMU 371
  – 1 comment advocated for allowing elk to expand in agricultural areas
  – 1 comment advocated for antlerless permits in GMU 653
Questions?
Motion Language

I move to adopt WACs 220-415-050

and 220-415-060 as presented.